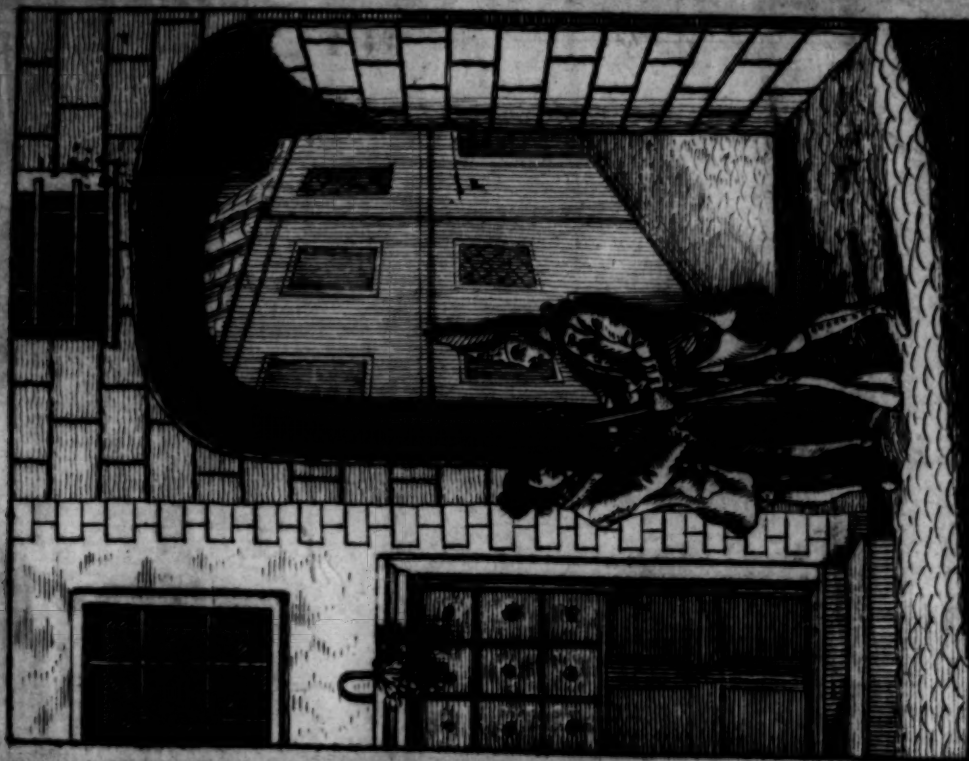




*Overan & his Favorite; Hannah H****s.*



Overan Stop'd by a Soldier in the Tower.

THE GENUINE
L I F E, &c.
O F
JOHN OVERAN,
OTHERWISE,
JOHN WILLIAMS,

Who was capitally Convicted on *Thursday* the
8th Day of *December*, 1774, for robbing Mr.
Venables, in the Tower, of Three Bank Notes,
and Money to the amount of 80 l.

A L S O,

An Account of the many Robberies they committed, for one of which they received Sentence of Death near four Years ago, in the County of *Surry*; afterwards pardoned on Condition of Transportation. Their breaking out of Jail, and robbing Mrs. *Weally* of a Bank Note, for which his Companion, received Sentence of Death. His receiving his former Sentence. His being transported, and his return soon after; and the Manner of committing the Robbery for which he received Sentence of Death.

To which is Added,
An Account of his Favourite Girl, and two of his Companions, Eatley and Withall.

The noted Cox, or William Hawkes,
Sixteen-String Jack, alias Rann;—
Read this Hero's Account—And he's he Man.

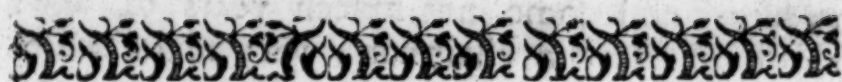
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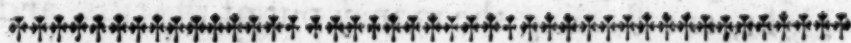
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THE GENUINE
L I F E, &c.
OF
JOHN OVERAN,
OTHERWISE,
JOHN WILLIAMS.



THE laws of this nation are very wisely framed by our fore-fathers for the punishment of offenders, if it was a little more attended to by the magistrates in and about this metropolis, by making such enquiries in their different divisions, to find out such public-houses where they suffer evening clubs, fiddling and dancing, &c. the greatest part of which attends those places of nightly amusements, are not above
twenty,

twenty, and some not sixteen years of age! and headed by a chairman; very night before this young society intends to break up, they have a new one crowned, with the ceremony of a gallon of beer, and a song sung suitable to the night; this often times obliges them to detain till eleven or twelve o'clock at night. They being mostly apprentices and the sons of tradesmen, are afraid to go to their respective homes, and by that means those that have money, get along with girls of the town, or other bad company, as long as it holds out, which is often attended with evil consequences, by catching bad disorders, &c. and not being willing to inform their friends, until it is too late, by which means many a youth is cut off, or their constitution ruined in their prime of life.

In the other hand, others that are afraid, or in fact, rather ashamed, to see their masters or parents, skulk about the streets, till necessity drives them to worse actions; such as robbing on the keys, picking pockets, slipping into shops at night, and stealing the money out of the tills, and such moveables as are convenient for them when the owners back is turned; and in the day time, they frequently resort Tower hill, Morefields, and many other such like places, to gamble away what they got over night.

By those inducements, and in general keeping company with a girl, and their little income not sufficient to support their extravagance, they betake themselves to more capital employments, such as highway-robberies, street-robberies, shop-lifting,

lifting, house-breaking, &c. that even for some sessions past, the most capital offences have been committed by misfortunate youths, scarcely twenty, and some not eighteen years of age; which if the magistrates would stop in time, might be the means of preserving the property of tradesmen, and many young lads from the gallows, and the happiness of their disconsolate parents, that often proves fatal to the whole family.

Another thing I will put the public in mind of, that is, that some years ago, a thief was very cautious in robbing any one of their watches, rings, plate, &c. but at this time, some of the old thieves, though young in years, will make their brag, that, if they could steal the king's crown, they could dispose of it; which makes an old saying, a very true one, *Was there no receivers, their would be but few thieves.*

There have not been, scarce, any capital robbery committed for some years past, but it was proved on evidence, that they are in general, JEWS that purchases the property, known it to be stolen, and for one quarter what the real value is; and if they happen to be found out, they commonly are admitted an evidence, if not they are ordered for transportation for ONLY Fourteen Years,——*To them no punishment at all.*

Now, the only thing I could recommend for the service of the nation in general, would be as follows:—— That an act should be made for every Jew to pay double taxes; and that, if any of the lower sort run in debt, committed any theft, or frauds under false pretences, or receiving

ing stolen goods, the rich Jews should be obliged to make the sufferers a restitution for their loss.

If the above scheme was put in execution, it would be the means of preventing most of the poorer sort from coming here, and a service to most of our shop-keepers in England; for by their artful ways, they drive into every branch of business, to the prejudice of a true born Englishman; who, in time of war, is obliged to serve their king and country, and they, at the same time, indulged going about with all sorts of merchandize, and half of them even without a licence, to the great detriment of the fair trader, and a scandle to those in power, who might prevent such a nuisance, for the good of the nation in general, and an honour to our most gracious Sovereign.

The above hints I will now leave to the consideration of my superiors, and proceed to the account of this unhappy young man, the subject of our history.

THE



THE young hero, whom I am going to give an account of, was the son of Mr. Overan, a jeweller, in the city of Cork, and kingdom of Ireland; who brought him up in a genteel manner, and bestowed such learning on him, as was suitable to his tender years.

When he was about the age of thirteen years, his father and mother, and their son, embarked for England, where they soon after arrived, and immediately came to London. His father being at that time in good circumstances, took a house at Chelsea, and lived in a very genteel manner, and every day promised him success in business. When his son arrived to the age of fourteen, he bound him apprentice to himself, to learn the art of jewellery, which he was very attentive to, and in a year or two, became a good hand for the time he had been under tuition, which was a great comfort to his parents, who indulged him in any little amusement he thought proper; and our little hero being particularly fond of pigeons, kept several pairs for fancy.

Some time after, it pleased God to call his father to his last home, and his mother carried on her husband's business, and had her son turned over to her. But she losing her husband, and being over fond of him, she indulged him in looking after his pigeons, and other amusements, that at last he grew so negligent in his business that he would do nothing but what he pleased.

Soon

Soon after he got acquainted with one John Eatley, who was extravagant like, himself, and they getting acquainted with women of the town, and not able to support them, they took to highway robberies, house-breaking, &c. which they committed with great success.

They went to different public houses where they thought there was money, plate, &c. and called for wine or punch, and they appearing like gentlemen, were in general introduced into the parlour, or private room, which contained a bureau or cupboard, where generally the publican keeps his money, and effects of value. When they find an opportunity, and the publican busy, they by means of false keys, opens all the drawers, and taking out every thing of value, get off even unsuspected.

About four years ago John Eatley and Overran, went to the house of Mrs. Stones, at the Star and Garter in Putney, and being genteelly dressed, they were admitted into the room where Mrs. Stone's property was, and by false keys, robbed her to the amount of two hundred and fifty pounds worth, in money, plate and rings, and got clear off; but soon after they were both apprehended and committed to take their trials at the assizes for the county of Surrey; but none of the property being found upon them when taken, they were detained till the next assizes, and then acquitted for want of sufficient evidence.

This long confinement hindered them greatly in their wicked employment, and, indeed, one would imagine the hardships they suffer in a jail, besides

besides being loaded with weighty irons, would be a sufficient caution to them never to be guilty of the like again.

Soon after they were discharged, Eatley, Overan, and his girl he then cohabited with, went to Ireland, where they committed several frauds and daring robberies; at last his companion, Eatley, was apprehended and tried, and received sentence of death, but Overan and his girl made their escape and got safe to England, where she soon afterwards died.

A short time after her death, he took lodgings at Croydon, and past for a young gentleman, where he became acquainted with Isaac Votier, and Thos. Withall, whose mother-in-law kept the sign of the Ship at Croydon, where there was a box club held; this unhappy culprit spending more than his abilities would afford of to keep up the gentleman, perswaded them to rob the house of the club box and money.

Accordingly on the 8th day of July, 1771, about one or two o'clock in the morning, they got a ladder, and Withall got in at the window of the room where the box was, and handed it to Overan, which, with the contents, they carried clear off.

In the morning the robbery was discovered, being blown about the town, a neighbour who lives near the place where the fact was committed, declared he saw Withall deliver a box out of the window to Overan; he being Mrs. Perciful's son-in-law, did not suspect any harm of him till the affair was discovered, as he belonged to the family.

By the above intelligence they were advertised, and all three apprehended, and carried before a Justice; the witness not being able to prove any thing against Votier, he was acquitted, and Overan and Withall fully committed to take their trials at the assizes held in the August following, before the Hon. Baron Smythe. The witness swearing to their persons, and the box being found in a field about a mile from the house, and the money taken out; and they not been able to bring sufficient proof where they were the night the robbery was committed, they were found guilty. But, the judge finding some favourable circumstances, they were respited 'till the next assizes, and left to the opinion of the twelve judges, who unanimously agreed to their former sentence. However, by the interest of several friends, and the humanity of the judge, they were only ordered for transportation for seven years.

The following humourous affair happened to Overan, while he and Withall were under confinement in the New Jail, Southwark:

Overan being drinking with some of his fellow-sufferers, one night in the tap of the said jail, pretty heartily, 'till all the money they could muster was expended, a motion was made by Jack, being always the leading man, for ways and means for the ensuing day.—Several proposed methods, but to no effect.—D---n me, says Jack,

Jack, call for a gallon of beer among you and I'll plan a Scheme.—Accordingly the beer was had in, and all impationed to here the event: Overan being sensible that Mr. Shillingworth's who kept the tap of the said jail, formerly kept a sloop-shop, and there still remained on his hands, several sailors jackets, trowsers, hats, &c. which was just the necessary apparatus to execute Jack's purpose. As soon as he found that they could be compleatly rigged for any cruize, having a very light iron on, and naturally of a merry alert disposition, jumped on the table, and cried out, "D---n me, boys, we'll go a pressing."—— This seemed rather a mystery to the members that were present being truly sensible of their confinement; but, however, they spent the night in merriment, and the whole was left till morning.

Accordingly a large ship's flag was procured, and every one (prisoners) furnished with jackets, trowsers, little round hats, and large orange cockades, with flag-handkerchiefs, sailor like, round their nacks, and a ratan in their hand, to the number of twelve or fourteen. The following six was the head of the gang; ——Capt. Overan, commander in chief; Lieuts. Withall, Thomas, Jones, Carrol, and Gordon; this was the noted Jack Gordon the thief-taker, who was afterwards run through the body with a large knife, by a glasshouse-man in attempting to take him on an execution.

Being

Being all neatly dressed, about nine o'clock in the morning they hoisted their broad flag in the middle of the yard, and gave three cheers, which when Mr. Hall, the keeper, observed, not hearing of the affair before, he called Green the turnkey, to know what the Devil was the matter, and why he suffered a press-gang to enter the jail, without his orders; but when he came to be informed it was only a scheme to raise some drink, he generously gave them half a crown for his smart-money, and laughed heartly.

This rigg they kept up with amazing success for several days, pressing every man that entered the jail that did not enter a volunteer; a volunteer was sevenpence, and a press'd man was what money they could get for smart-money.

They drank the first day near thirty gallons of beer, and when the flag was struck at night, they had eighteen shillings and some pence good in money.

They followed this scheme for some time, until, in fact, the people was affraid to go in to see their friends; at last Mr. Hall was obliged to lower their flag, and disperse the gang to their different apartments.

Another merry joke happened between Overan and a countryman whom they had pressed, and proved rather rusty, so that they were obliged to confine him in the black hole, which was the tap-room, until he had paid his smart-money: — Being drinking together, and Jack taking off the countryman to please his companions, rather freely, the stranger rose up in a great passion, and

and swore, "He'd be d---n if the wou'd'ent fight "that prating monkey for a crown's worth of "beer." (not observing the iron on his leg.)—"Done," says Overan.—The money was deposited, and laid in the landlord's hand, and both went into the yard and strip'd to the buff; the countryman, being a tall lusty fellow, Jack looked like David to Golliagh.—However, Overan, having numbers of seconds, jumped about him, and bore two or three blows, but getting into close grips with him, began beating the countryman's shins severely with his iron, that, in a short time, he was glad to give out, and swore, "He'd be d---n'd if Jack's shoes was not paved "with horse nails;" and naturally concluded him to be a West countryman, he understood kicking so well. He allowed the wager to be lost, and spent the remainder of the night with them, as a Volunteer!

Just before the transports was ordered off, they in the night sawed off their irons, and by the assistance of tools and pick-lock keys, broke and unlocked several locks, and forced their way into the yard, got over a high wall, and so made their escape.

It was upwards of six months before they were heard of, and in that time they had committed several robberies; but, by an information of Withall's girl, that he kept company with, they were apprehended, and brought before Sir John Fielding. They were advertised, and their persons described, when Mrs. Weally, that keeps a public-house on Haddle-Hill, near Doctor's-
Commons,

Commons, proved, that Withall and Overan, came to her house and had something to drink; that they wanted change, and on going to give the change, she unfortunately pulled out a Bank Note of Thirty Pounds; that Withall snatched the note out of her hand, and both made their escape.

They were both committed to Newgate to take their trials at the Old Bailey, where Withall received sentence of death; and Overan, as he did not steal the note, was sent back to the New-jail, Southwark.

At the next assizes, in August, 1773, he received his former sentence of transportation, and went on board with the other transports, about fifteen months ago, so that it is imagined he was not above three months out of England, before he returned to Hannah Harris, his girl again, who passed for his wife; but we may say, for one of her sort, her like is seldom or ever to be met with; for in all his troubles she never forsook him, but supported him in meat, drink and money, through all his confinement; and indeed, it was generally thought, that she was the only person that conveyed the saws, tools, &c. when they made their escapes.

About three months after his transportation, she took a house near Ratcliff-highway, and put herself and mother in deep mourning, about the time he came back, in order to decieve the thief-takers; and had got a letter wrote, with a false mark, as if it came from the place where he was trans-

transported ; that he died soon after he landed ; and that he had left his money, cloaths, watch, rings and buckles, to her, to be brought over by the return of the ship.

By this artful means she used, when he returned, they were not the least suspected ; altho' he and his new companion he had pick'd up, had committed many robberies and frauds, and in particular, that on Mr. Venables, in the Tower. we shall give our readers a circumstantial account of the whole transaction, which was as follows :

Overan and his new companion, went to the sign of the Bunch of Grapes, a public-house in the Tower, on the 18th of October last ; and being genteelly dressed, was ushered into a private room, where none but gentlemen or tradesmen are admitted. They called for three penny-worth of rum and water, and the news paper ; but they had not long been there, till Overan, by the help of a chissel, and a bunch of pick-lock keys, soon made his way into an inner room, where Mr. Venable's money, bank notes, &c. were kept in a cupboard, in the said room. Mr. Venables being asked for the news paper, in the under part of the house, ran up stairs to get it from the gentlemen ; but on going to open the door, he found Coggan pushing against it to prevent his getting into the room : However, Mr. Venables being the strongest, forced it open ; and immediately discovering the inner-room also open, laid hold of Coggan's collar, and asked him what he had been at. The same time Overan come out of the other room, and slipped past the landlord,

landlord, and thought to make his escape with all the booty ; but he having the presence of mind, called out at the window, " Stop that Fellow ;" by which means William Kerrison, one of the centinals on duty, caught hold of him, and carried him into the tap-room, and desired him, if he had any thing the property of the landlord's, to deliver it immediately.

Accordingly he delivered to him, the three bank notes, and a canvas bag ; and Mr. Venables coming into directly, he gave them to the landlord, which was as follows :—Two bank notes of twenty pounds, and one of ten pounds ; a canvas bag, containing seven guineas, seven silver sizes, and a tea spoon.

As soon as Mr. Venables received the above, he went to see what other things was missing ; but his wife came in and declared, that she had lost thirteen pounds in half crowns and other money.

On the above declaration, the soldier put his hand in his pockets and pulled out part of the half crowns. He desired Mrs. Venables not to be uneasy, and he would deliver all to her. She went and held her apron, and he put in the remainder of the half crowns, which amounted to thirteen pounds in all ; eight guineas, and five quarter guineas ; a silver spoon, and near three pounds in silver ; which he declared was all he had, except a few shillings and a medal, his real property.

Kerrison put his hand in another pocket, and found a bunch of keys, which I suppose he made use

use of on that occasion; and another person standing by, found in another pocket, four or five more of the same sort, made on purpose for picking locks of all sizes.

Mr. Venables returning back, he was informed that all the money was found on Williams, otherwise Overan; whom immediately sent for a constable, and carried them before a Justice, who fully committed them to take their trials at the Old Bailey, for the above offence.

On Thursday, December the 8th, 1774, John Overan, otherwise Williams, and Patrick Coggan, were brought to the bar, and tried before Mr. Serjeant Glynn, Recorder, and a special Middlesex jury, for robbing Mr. Venables of the sums before-mentioned.

The witness being called, and fully proving the fact to the satisfaction of the court, Overan was cast for death; but as none of the property was found on Coggan, altho' in the same room when the landlord discovered the robbery, and drinking with this culprit, and; we may may suppose, equally as guilty; yet he was discharged, and the other ordered for execution.

As soon as he had received sentence, he was conveyed to one of the cells, where he behaved in a very becoming manner, suitable to his unhappy fate. And to the last had some faint hopes of a respite, as his girl left no stone unturned to get him off for transportation.

But we should think what a folly it must be for her, to attempt to save the life of a man, who has been guilty of so many crimes!—Once

D

cast

cast for death; reprieved and transported; returning before the expiration of his time, which last offence alone is death; and now the second time cast for death! — What could he expect — To be guilty of the same crime, he so lately received the mercy of the law for! — What numbers of unhappy wretches suffer for the first capital offence; nay, even some that are innocent! — Yet, though he suffered the hardships of a jail; the burthen of heavy irons; and, even the dreadful horrors of a shameful death; would not deter him from the old way of life — Dreadful thought — To think, that a young man, of a genteel family; a good education; and all the prospects of happiness, could ever entertain the thoughts of being a thief! — Besides, the ruin and disgrace of his parent; the breaker of the commandments; the scoff of all honest men; and their forfeiting soul and body, and for what? — for a day or two's idle amusement, or the enjoyment of a common prostitute! — May his untimely death be a caution to the young and unguarded, that they may lead a life with uprightness and modesty, that they may be a living comfort to their parents; and, when dying, an acceptable sight to God.

The deceptions that his girl made use of, by reporting he was dead, was the means of his not being apprehended before; for those that did know him, would not believe him to be the same man. He has been, since his return, very cunning and artful in his proceeding, and took the greatest care not to be discovered.

Since

Since the report was made, and finding himself one of those mentioned to suffer, he was a little more doubtful of success; and was very attentive to the Ordinary, and those that attended on him, under his unhappy situation; and often reflected on his past conduct, saying, had he taken his friends advice in time, he might have been a comfort to his disconsolate mother, and employed the remainder of his days, to the general good of mankind. But vain, like many more misfortunate youths, for when they fall into that wicked and abandoned way of life, they seldom or ever leave it off, till death or transportation stops their proceedings.

Hannah Harris, the woman whom he cohabited with so long, is a girl of the town, and generally walks the High-street, in the Borough. She is about five feet four inches high, red hair, and dark brown eyes. She formerly lived with one P——, a bailiff's-follower; so that what he got by touching a man on the shoulder, and the pocket, they lived well, and appeared very gay; till going out one evening, with *Boatswain Bet*, another girl of the town, to seek for prey, they met one *Pickerr*, a noted one for stealing dead bodies, and afterwards a thief-taker, and he shewing his authority, as they generally do, over those misfortunate women, words ensued; and pushing her about, he struck him.

Accor-

Accordingly next day he went to a Justice, and got a warrant, by swearing the peace against them, and that they threatened his life. For which they were both committed to the New jail, Southwark.

She had not been long there, and her favourite man neglecting her, till she got acquainted with this Overan, who then was under sentence of transportation; while they were in jail, they were very gracious, never leaving each other, till the turnkey seperated them, at locking up time.

Soon after this she was cleared, and followed her old trade again; and the substance of the spoil she got in the night, she generously spent it on him in the day time; a thing seldom to be met with from one of her sort, to prove true to a man when in trouble: But, like the noted Milwood, when they have got all they can, they generally are the first that would betray them, and never satisfied 'till they work their distruction, that they may lay hold of another to support their extravagant way of life, and the only one that drives them on to the gallows.

By this account, I hope, it will be a warning to young and unguarded youth, that instead of getting into bad company, they will be attentive to their tender parents, and at all opportunities, attend such places of worship as they are brought up in, and by that means they will be a comfort to them in this world, and by our Lord and blessed Redeemer, in the world to come, life everlasting, Amen.

To the PRINTER of the LIFE of
John Overan, otherwise Williams.

S I R,

By inserting the following hints in your New and useful Publication, if possible, it may be the means of putting a stop to the many daring robberies daily committed, by exposing the different ways they make use of; a caution to the unguarded; and detecting the thief, and saving the person's property; and you'll much oblige your humble servant,

A Detester of Thieves.

To the P U B L I S H E R.

*The different Ways and Schemes practiced by Thieves,
in and about this Metropolis.*

THE first branch of this abominable calling, and one of the most lowest, is *Picking of Pockets*; and that is done in general by three lads, who stand at the corner of public streets, and when they see a man or women together, or two men busy in talking, one goes after them, and the other two covers him, while he picks their pockets; and hands the handkerchief, or any o-
the.

ther article, to one of the other, who immediately crosses the way; and if the person whose pocket is picked, should find it going, they naturally lay hold of the suspected person next him, and takes him to a light and searches him; and finding it not about him, lets the thief escape.

The second I shall give an account of, is termed *Sneaks*; they go about in a night, and in the morning; if they see a shop open, and the person busy that belongs to it, in the yard or back room, they slip in to the shop, and carries off any thing that comes to hand. Likewise in the morning, when servants are cleaning the house, they watch the opportunity when they maid goes backwards, goes into the parlour or front room, and carries off plate, or any thing of value, and get off undiscovered.

The third degree of thieving is on shop-keepers. There is a set of woman that goes about in a genteel manner, and makes an excuse to look at lace, handkerchiefs, &c. and when the shop-man turns his back to shew more things, they embrace the opportunity, and so takes something under her cloak, and at the same time bids him money for what he shews her, which she is sure he will not except of, and generally get off unsuspected.

The fourth degree, is as follows: There is a set of fellows, about three or four in a gang, they go into a private street, in the evening; and when they find an opportunity, they cut out a pane of glass, and carry off whatever they can lay hold of.

— This ought to be a caution to shop-keepers,
not

not to leave their shops open, but carefully shut them up, or some trusty person in it, to take care of their property.

The fifth, and one of the most artful now practiced, is,—many people, that attends church on Sunday, or other places of worship, locks their house up, and thinks their self safe when the key's turned; but the thieves keeps the look-out, and by the means of false-keys and other instruments, opens the door, and carries off what they can possibly lay hold of, locks the door again, and is gone.

Now the only way to prevent this, is not to leave the house without somebody in it, as for locks they are of no service were those villains come, they being furnished with all the necessary apparatus for that purpose. This sort of work is practiced between lights, and the people ought to look about, to see if they saw any of those villains skulking in the street, court, &c. before they leave their house.

The sixth, which is one of the most daring, and most wicked, is that of *House-Breaking*; and at this time, as much followed by a set of hardened fellows, as any whatever; they enter the house in the dead of night, stand over you with a cock'd pistol, and a sword drawn, and with the most dreadful threats, that if they stir or speak, they would blow their brains out; while his companions robs the house of money, and every thing of value. If any deserve punishment, certainly these are the most guilty; for a man to lose all that he

he has got in an hour's time, must be very alarming.

The method is, to guard against those wretches, is, to have strong cross bars on your window-shutters, good inside bolts to your doors, a sharpe mastiff dog, and fire arms in the house; a lamp left burning in your room, is of infinite service. Provided with those weapons one man may stop three or four of those cowardly villains; for their guilty conscience, attended with that cloud of fear that hings over their heads, makes them often leave a house, wholly by the vision of imagination.

The seventh is, a *Robber on the Highway*, or a *Foot Pad*. The first, in general, comes in a bold daring manner, and clapping a pistol to your breast, demands your money. By some, those are counted brave resolute fellows; but if a man was only to carry a pocket pistol about him, the sight of it would fright the most daring among them.

The *Foot Pads* generally use a great deal of cruelty; for they seldom or ever leave the person, without cutting of him, or knocking him down, in order to prevent their following the thief.



An Account of all the Prisoners that received Sentence of Death during the last Sessions; held from the 7th to the 13th of December, 1774; before the Right Hon. John Wilkes, Esq; Lord Mayor of the City of London.

The Trial of John Overan otherwise Williams, for robbing Mr. Venables, being just the same as what have been mentioned before, we therefore think it useless to insert it: We shall only take notice of their Defence on Trial, which was as follows.

The Defence of John Overan otherwise John Williams.

“ I leave it to my counsel; as to Coggan, I know nothing of them.”

Coggan's Defence.

“ I went into the tap-room and called for three pennyworth of liquor; I was very much in liquor: this gentlemen came into the room and pushed me out of the chair almost, I never saw this man, Williams, before.”

Williams, guilty Death.

Coggan, Acquitted.

Amos Merritt, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Edward Ellicott,
E. on

on the 26th of October, about the hour of two in the morning, and stealing a shagreen tea chest mounted with silver, value five pounds, two silver tea cannisters, value eight pounds, a silver sugar basket, value three pounds, two silver fauce boats, value six pounds, twelve silver desert spoons, value six pounds, four silver tea spoons, value ten shillings, a silver fauce ladle, a silver salt ladle, a filligree pool, a gold chased watch chain, a stone snuff box mounted in gold, a paper machee snuff box mounted in gold, a miniture picture set in gold, an enamelled locket in metal, a pair of garnet ear-rings, two garnet sprigs for the hair, two silk purses, a shagreen pocket book with a silver clasp and pencil, a pair of bead ear-rings, a stone ear-ring, four metal rings, three silver medals, one gilt metal et-wee, a walking cane with a gold head, ditto with a metal one, a clock, and two two-guinea pieces, the property of the said Edward.

Merritt's Defence.

" Bill Hatchman and Nimmy, and Matshu-met came to my the day before Mr. Ellicott's house was broke open, they said they were going to rob a Jew ladies at Highgate, and asked me if I was willing to go with them. I was very poorly, I had work to go to, and thought it the best, they said it was a Jew ladies, and she had a Jew maid, and that Yapper, one of the gang, was a Jew, and this maid was to leave the door open for us to go in, and after this house was robbed, he was married to her. I went along with him

him to Highgate to *do* the robbery, when we came there the house was fastened: I had much ado to walk there: When we found we could not *do* that house, I went a little way down Hornsey-Lane with them, I said I could not walk any further, I must go home. I did, and knew nothing about Mr. Ellicott's robbery, nor never had a halfpenny of the money, they went on without me, I was not able to go about my other business."

Guilty Death.

Note, This is the same unfortunate man, who, about three months before this, saved the life of one Madden, who was just going to be executed, by declaring to the sheriffs that he was the person that committed the robbery for which he was going innocently to suffer for.

Charles Rogers, William Oxtoby, Joseph Horton, and Sarah Taylor, spinster, were indicted; the first three for that they in the king's highway, on John Gill, did make an assault, putting him in corporal fear of his life, and stealing from his person a pair of silver shoe buckles, and half a guinea in money.

Oxtoby's Defence.

"I know nothing at all of the robbery. I bought them buckles of one John Kempton in Shoreditch, but I don't know where he is."

Horton's Defence.

"I am very innocent of the affair."

Taylor's Defence.

"I

" I went with Oxtoby when he pawned the buckles. I thought he came honestly by them "

The three first guilty Death, and Taylor acquitted.

William Cook was indicted for stealing two pieces of satin containing forty yards, value sixteen pounds, the property of John Hunt, privately, in the shop of the said John, Oct. 27.

Guilty Death.

Richard Mitchell was indicted for feloniously secreting one letter then lately sent by the post, by Francis Whitfield, from Lewes in the county of Sussex, to Mr. John Moxham, merchant, at Lymington in Hampshire, which letter then came to the hands and possession of the said Richard, Mitchell, being a person employed in sorting letters and packets in the General Post Office, and which letter contained a Bank Note of the value of one hundred pounds, marked No. 13. 214, dated London, the 13th Day of September, 1774 and signed by one John Warren, for the Governor and Co. of the Bank of England, by which the said John, Warren for the said Governor, did promise to pay to Mr. Apsey Brett, or bearer, on demand, the sum of one hundred pounds.

Mitchell's Defence.

" Please you, my Lord, I am charged with embezzling letters; one Mr. Bedford brought me the note in the morning, and desired me to get cash for it; and accordingly I gave it to the maid, and desired her to get the cash; I went out and never came home, or see the money: Bedford

ford visited me while I was in Newgate, and promised to surrender himself up to justice, if any harm happened to me, and begged for God's sake, I would not betray him.

Guilty Death.

Richard Hawke was indicted for stealing an ewe sheep, value fourteen shillings, and a wether sheep value twenty shillings, the property of Daniel Dyson, Dec. 9th.

Guilty Death.

William Pritchard, Peter Thane, and Edward Parker, were indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Joseph Cruttenden, on the 31st of October, about the hour of one in the night, and stealing a silver soup ladle, twelve silver table spoons, twelve tea spoons, a silver pint mug, two ditto salvers, five ditto cruet tops, a silver coffee pot, a ditto cream pot, a satin cloak, a linen shirt, two handkerchiefs, a pair of lather breeches, a linen frock, and seventy-two halfpence, the property of the said Joseph.

Pritchard's Defence.

“ If I had been guilty of it, should I have mentioned it to any body I did not know? I am in the same distress now respecting cloaths, that I was before, I had an acquaintance that lent me some money, and I took some things out of pawn with it. The gentleman who is the prosecutor is the last person I should think of robbing. I never saw a gilt cup in the house. If I had had this money, I should had more cloaths to
my

my back. I hope you'll take it into consideration, not to take an innocent life away. I have no witness.

Thane's Defence.

"The thing laid to my charge I am quite innocent of: I never was concerned in the robbery at all. As to my money I bought my buckles with, I got it by gambling. I have not been from my master above a month. I was shopman to Mr. Mackey, an orange merchant in Covent-Garden, since that I have lived with Mr. Har- chard's in Denmark-street, Haymarket."

Parker's Defence.

"I know nothing at all about the affair, nor do I of the prisoners at the bar. The witness are men of very bad characters. One of them, Vince, was tried here for robbing his master, and I was a witness against him. I have no friends in the world only God and myself."

Guilty Death.

Note, Pritchard was tried last sessions, for a highway robbery, when the good character given him by Mr. Cruttenden, conduced in a great measure to his acquital.

William Clifton was indicted, for that he, in the king's highway, in and upon Thomas Dic- ker, did make an assault, putting him in corpo- ral fear and danger of his life, and stealing from his person a watch, and fourteen shillings in mo- ney, the property of the said Thomas, the 5th of Nov. last.

Guilty Death.

John

John Overan, Emos Merritt, William Pritchard, Peter Thane, Edward Parker, and Richard Mitchell, were ordered for execution on Tuesday the 10th of January, 1775; and the others respited during his Majesty's pleasure.

Accordingly the above six, about eight in the morning, were ordered out of their cells into the press-yard, and from thence to chapel, attended by the Ordinary of Newgate; and after praying with them for about half an hour, they returned into the press-yard again, and had their ironsnock'd off; after the sheriff had demanded their bodies, they were conveyed out of Newgate, and John Overan, Richard Mitchell, and Amos Merritt, in the first cart; and William Pritchard, Peter Lane, and Edward Parker in the next: Overan was dressed in a brown coat and waistcoat, ruffled shirt, black breeches, and white silk stockings. Mitchell was dressed in a full suit of mourning, and Merritt in a snuff-coloured suit, and each a nose-gay in their bosom.

The other three in the last cart were but indifferently dressed, but their behaviour was decent and becoming their unhappy situation.

Mitchell in particular was very earnest in prayer all the way, and most of his discourse was to Overan, as Mitchell sat in the middle. When they arrived at the place of execution, they were all put into one cart, and the halters fix'd about their necks: Overan acknowledged what he was going to suffer for was just, and hoped the standers by, would take warning by his unhappy fate, and desired them to call an acquaintance of his:



his: when he went up to him, he kiss'd him, and spoke some few words to him, and delivered his hat, nackcloth, &c.

Merritt also died very decently, acknowledged the justness of his sentence, and freely forgave his prosecutors. Before he was turn'd off, he took his shoes, and threw them in the crowd.

The Ordinary went up in the cart, and shook hands with Overan and Mitchell: they spent about half an hour in prayer: before he left them he saluted Overan and Mitchell, Overan took hold of his hand and kissed it, and as soon as he let it go, Mitchell took hold of it, and pressed it to his breast for some time, with his eyes cast towards heaven. As for the other three, the Ordinary did not take so much notice of, whether it was because they were not so well dressed, I must leave to his superior judgment, but one in his place, I think, ought to make no difference in persons, and especially on such melancholy occasions. As soon as he left the cart, Mitchell and Overan took hold of each others hands, and in that manner were turned off together.

When they had hung the usual time their bodies were cut down and delivered to their friends for interment, and we hope the Lord has received their souls in glory.

F I N I S.



